Pamela Hintz 651.621.8535 - Direct PHintz@otcpas.com



Depend on Our People. Count on Our Advice.SM

June 15, 2017

Marlene H. Dortch Secretary Federal Communications Commission 445 12th Street, S.W. Washington, DC 20554

ATTENTION: WIRELINE COMPETION BUREAU

RE: Form 481 ETC filing pursuant to Sections 54.313 and 54.422 SAC 330936, WI, Indianhead Telephone Company Connect America Fund WC Dockets 10-90, 11-42 and 14-58

Dear Secretary Dortch:

Pursuant to Sections 54.313 and 54.422 of the Commission's Rules, please accept the attached FCC Form 481 of Indianhead Telephone Company, WI, SAC 330936 (the "Company") for filing with the Commission.

The Company is filing the attached redacted version via ECFS.

Kindly direct any questions regarding this transmittal to the undersigned. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Pamela Hintz

Senior Telecommunications Consultant phintz@otcpas.com

(651) 621-8535

**Enclosures** 

# FCC Form 481 - Carrier Arms FLOAGTED - FOR PUBLIC INSPERIOR S6/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 Data Collection Form

<010>	Study Area Code	330936
<015>	Study Area Name	INDIANHEAD TEL CO
<020>	Program Year	2018
<030>	Contact Name: Person USAC should contact with questions about this data	PAMELA HINTZ
<035>	Contact Telephone Number: Number of the person identified in data line <030>	6516218535 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address: Email of the person identified in data line <030>	phintz@otcpas.com
	Form Type	54.313 and 54.422

(200) Service Outage Reporting (Voice)	FCC Form 481
Data Collection Form	OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
	July 2013

(300) Unfulfilled Service Request  Data Collection Form		FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013			
<010> Study Area Code	330936				
<015> Study Area Name	INDIANHEAD TEL CO				
<020> Program Year	2018				
<030> Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this	data PAMELA HINTZ				
<035> Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified	in data line <030> 6516218535 ext.				
<039> Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified	in data line <030> phintz@otcpas.com				
<300> Unfulfilled service request (voice)	0				
<310> Detail on attempts (voice)					
	Name of Attached Document				
<320> Unfulfilled service request (broadband)	0				
<330> Detail on attempts (broadband)					
	Name of Attached Document				

(400) Number of Complaints per 1,000 customers	FCC Form 481
Data Collection Form	OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
	July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	330936	
<015>	Study Area Name	INDIANHEAD TEL CO	
<020>	Program Year	2018	
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should conta	ct regarding this data	\ HINTZ
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of p <030>	erson identified in data line	6516218535 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of p <030>	erson identified in data line	phintz@otcpas.com
<400>	Select from the drop-down list to indicate he voice complaints (zero or greater) for voice calendar year for each service area in which any facilities you own, operate, lease, or other services.	telephony service in the prior n you are designated an ETC fo	
<410>	Complaints per 1000 customers for fixed vo	oice	0.0
<420>	Complaints per 1000 customers for mobile	voice	
<430>	Select from the drop-down list to indicate end-user customer complaints (zero or gre the prior calendar year for each service are an ETC for any facilities you own, operate,	ater) for broadband service in a in which you are designated	Offered only fixed broadband
<440>	Complaints per 1000 customers for fixed b	roadband	0.0
<450>	Complaints per 1000 customers for mobile	broadband	

	npliance With Service Quality Standards and Consumer Protection Rules ection Form		FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
<010>	Study Area Code	330936	
<015>	Study Area Name	INDIANHEAD TEL CO	
<020>	Program Year	2018	
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	PAMELA HINTZ	
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	6516218535 ext.	
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	phintz@otcpas.com	
<500>	Certify compliance with applicable service quality standards and consumer pro	otection rules Yes	
		330936WI510.pdf	
<510>	Descriptive document for Service Quality Standards & Consumer Protection Ru	ules Compliance	
<515>	Certify compliance with applicable minimum service standards		

# (600) Functionality in Emergency Sit Rate DACTED - FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

Data Collection FormOMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	330936
<015>	Study Area Name	INDIANHEAD TEL CO
<020>	Program Year	2018
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	PAMELA HINTZ
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	6516218535 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	phintz@otcpas.com
<600>	Certify compliance regarding ability to function in emergency situations	Yes
<610>	Descriptive document for Functionality in Emergency Situations	330936WI610.pdf

(700) Price Offerings including Voice Rate Data  Data Collection Form		FCC Form 481  OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819  July 2013
<010> Study Area Code	330936	
<015> Study Area Name	INDIANHEAD TEL CO	
<020> Program Year	2018	
<030> Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	PAMELA HINTZ	
<035> Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in dat	a line <030> 6516218535 ext.	
<039> Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in dat	ra line <030> phintz@otcpas.com	
<701> Residential Local Service Charge Effective Date <702> Single State-wide Residential Local Service Charge	7	

<703>	<a1></a1>	<a2></a2>	<a3></a3>	<b1></b1>	<b2></b2>	<b3></b3>	<b4></b4>	<b5></b5>	<c></c>
					Residential Local			Mandatory Extended Area	
	State	Exchange (ILEC)	SAC (CETC)	Rate Type	Service Rate	State Subscriber Line Charge	State Universal Service Fee	Service Charge	Total per line Rates and Fees
					See at	tached worksheet			
					<del>000 a</del>	taonoa workonoot			

Page 8

(710) Broadbrand Price Offerings	FCC Form 481
Data Collection Form	OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
	July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code 3	30936
<015>	Study Area Name	INDIANHEAD TEL CO
<020>	Program Year	2018
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	PAMELA HINTZ
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	6516218535 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	phintz@otcpas.com

<711>	<a1></a1>	<a2></a2>	<b1></b1>	<b2></b2>	<c></c>	<d1></d1>	<d2></d2>	<d3></d3>	<d4></d4>
	State	Exchange (ILEC)	Residential Rate	State Regulated Fees	Total Rate and Fees	Broadband Service - Download Speed (Mbps)	Broadband Service - Upload Speed (Mbps)	Usage Allowance (GB)	Usage Allowance Action Taken When Limit Reached {select }
				- See attacl	hed				
			,	worksheet -					
			,	Vonconoc					
			l	l		l	l		

(800) Op	erating Companies		FCC Form 481
Data Coll	ection Form		OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819  July 2013
<010>	Study Area Code		330936
<015>	Study Area Name		INDIANHEAD TEL CO
<020>	Program Year		2018
<030>	Contact Name - Person	USAC should contact regarding this data	PAMELA HINTZ
<035>	Contact Telephone Num	nber - Number of person identified in data line <030>	6516218535 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address -	Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	phintz@otcpas.com
<810>	Reporting Carrier	Indianhead Telephone Company	
<811>	Holding Company	Rural Communications Holding Corporation	
<812>	Operating Company	Indianhead Telephone Company	

<813>	<a1></a1>	<a2></a2>	<a3></a3>
	Affiliates	SAC	Doing Business As Company or Brand Designation
•			
			-
	See atta	ached workshe	et
•			
,			
			-
•			
,			
•			
•			
•			
•			

(900) Tribal Lands Reporting Data Collection Form OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013 330936 Study Area Code <010> INDIANHEAD TEL CO <015> Study Area Name 2018 <020> Program Year PAMELA HINTZ <030> Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data 6516218535 ext. Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030> <035> phintz@otcpas.com Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030> <039> <900> Does the filing entity offer tribal land services? (Y/N) Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa <910> Tribal Land(s) on which ETC Serves 330936WI920.pdf <920> Tribal Government Engagement Obligation Name of Attached Document

If your company serves Tribal lands, please select (Yes,No, NA) for each these boxes to confirm the status described on the attached PDF, on line 920, demonstrates coordination with the Tribal government pursuant to § 54.313(a)(9) includes:

- <921> Needs assessment and deployment planning with a focus on Tribal community anchor institutions.
- <922> Feasibility and sustainability planning;
- <923> Marketing services in a culturally sensitive manner;
- <924> Compliance with Rights of way processes
- <925> Compliance with Land Use permitting requirements
- <926> Compliance with Facilities Siting rules
- <927> Compliance with Environmental Review processes
- <928> Compliance with Cultural Preservation review processes
- <929> Compliance with Tribal Business and Licensing requirements.

Select				
Yes or No or				
Not Applicable				
Yes				
Yes				

		1 OIL ODEIO IIIOI EO IIOII	T ugc 11		
(1000) V	(1000) Voice and Broadband Service Rate Comparability FCC Form 481				
Data Collection Form		OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060	-0819		
		July 2013			
<010>	Study Area Code	330936			
<015>	Study Area Name	INDIANHEAD TEL CO			

<010>	Study Area Code		330936
<015>	Study Area Name		INDIANHEAD TEL CO
<020>	Program Year		2018
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data		PAMELA HINTZ
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <	030>	6516218535 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <	:030>	phintz@otcpas.com
<1000>	Voice services rate comparability certification	Yes	
<1010>	Attach detailed description for voice services rate comparability compliance	33093	Name of Attached Document
<1020>	Broadband comparability certification		- Pricing is no more than the most recent applicable benchmark announced by Wireline Competition Bureau
<1030>	Attach detailed description for broadband comparability compliance	330936	6WI1030.pdf
			Name of Attached Document

•	o Terrestrial Backhaul Reporting lection Form		FCC Form 481  OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819  July 2013
			,
<010>	Study Area Code	330936	
<015>	Study Area Name	INDIANHEAD TEL CO	
<020>	Program Year	2018	
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	PAMELA HINTZ	
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	6516218535 ext.	
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	phintz@otcpas.com	
<1100>	Certify whether terrestrial backhaul options exist (Y/N)	Yes	
<1130>	Please select the appropriate response (Yes, No, Not Applicable) to confirm the reporting carrier offers broadband service of at least 1 Mbps downstream and 256 upstream within the supported area pursuant to § 54.313(g).	kbps	

Lifeline	rms and Condition for Lifeline Customers		FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
<010>	Study Area Code	330936	
<015>	Study Area Name	INDIANHEAD TEL CO	
<020>	Program Year	2018	
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	PAMELA HINTZ	
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030	> 6516218535 ext.	
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <03	> phintz@otcpas.com	
<1210>	Terms & Conditions of Voice Telephony Lifeline Plans	330936WI1210.pdf	Name of Attached Decument
			Name of Attached Document
<1220>	Link to Public Website HTTP		
or the we	neck these boxes below to confirm that the attached document(s), on line 1210, bsite listed, on line 1220, contains the required information pursuant to (a)(2) annual reporting for ETCs receiving low-income support, carriers must report:		
<1221>	Information describing the terms and conditions of any voice telephony service plans offered to Lifeline subscribers,		
<1222>	Details on the number of minutes provided as part of the plan,		
<1223>	Additional charges for toll calls, and rates for each such plan.		

(2005) Pi	rice Cap Carrier Additional Documentation		FCC Form 481
Data Col	lection Form		OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
Including	Rate-of-Return Carriers affiliated with Price Cap Local Exchange Carriers		July 2013
<010>	Study Area Code	330936	
<015>	Study Area Name	INDIANHEAD TEL CO	
<020>	Program Year	2018	
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	PAMELA HINTZ	
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	6516218535 ext.	
<039> Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>		phintz@otcpas.com	

Select the appropriate responses below (Yes, No, Not Applicable) to note compliance as a recipient of Incremental High Cost support, High Cost support to offset access charge reductions, and Connect America Phase II support as set forth in 47 CFR § 54.313(b),(c),(d),(e). The information reported on this form and in the documents attached below is accurate.

#### **Incremental Connect America Phase I reporting**

<2011>	3rd Year Certification 47 CFR §54.313(b)(1)(ii) - Note that for the July 2017 certification, this applies to Round 2 recipients of Incremental Support.	
<2022>	Recipient certifies, representing year three after filing a notice of acceptance of funding pursuant to 54.312(c), that the locations in question are not receiving support under the Broadband Initiatives Program or the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program for projects that will provide broadband with speeds of at least 4 Mbps/1Mbps - 54.313(b)(2)(i). Round 2 recipients only.	
<2023>	The attachment on line 2024 includes a statement of the total amount of capital funding expended in the previous year in meeting Connect America Phase I deployment obligations, accompanied by a list of census blocks indicating where funding was spent. This covers year three - 54.313(b)(2)(ii). Round 2 recipients only.	
<2024A>	Round 2 Recipient of Incremental Support?	
<2024B>	Attach list of census blocks indicating where funding was spent in year three - 54.313(b)(2)(ii). Round 2 recipients only.	Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information
<2025A>	Round 2 Recipient of Incremental Support?	
<2025B>	Attach geocoded Information for Phase I milestone reports (Round 2 for year three) - Connect America Fund , WC Docket 10-90, Report and Order, FCC 13-73, paragraph 35 (May 22, 2013).	Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information
<2015>	2016 and future Frozen Support Certification 47 CFR § 54.313(c)(4)	

(2005) Price Cap	Carrier Additional Documentation	FCC Form 481		
Data Collection F	Form	OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 30		
Including Rate-of	f-Return Carriers affiliated with Price Cap Local Exchange Carriers	July 2013		
Price Ca	p Carrier Connect America ICC Support {47 CFR § 54.313(d)}			
<2016>	Certification support used to build broadband			
Connect	America Phase II Reporting {47 CFR § 54.313(e)}			
<2017A>	Connect America Fund Phase II recipient?			
<2017C>	Total amount of Phase II support, if any, the price cap carrier used for capital expenditures in 2016.			
<2018>	Attach the number, names, and addresses of community anchor institutions to which the carrier newly began providing access to broadband service in the preceding calendar year - 54.313(e)(1)(ii)(A)	Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information		
<2019>	Recipient certifies that it bid on category one telecommunications and Internet access services in response to all FCC Form 470 postings seeking broadband service that meets the connectivity targets for the schools and libraries universal service support program for eligible schools and libraries located within any area in a census block where the carrier is receiving Phase II model-based support, and that such bids were at rates reasonably comparable to rates charged to eligible schools and libraries in urban areas for comparable offerings - 54.313(e)(1)(ii)(C)			

(3005) Rate Of Return Carrier Additional Documentation

FCC Form 481

OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	330936
<015>	Study Area Name	INDIANHEAD TEL CO
<020>	Program Year	2018
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	PAMELA HINTZ
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	6516218535 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	phintz@otcpas.com

Select from the drop down menu or check the boxes below to note compliance with 54.313(f)(1). Privately held carriers must ensure compliance with the financial reporting requirements set forth in 47 CFR 54.313(f)(2). I further certify that the information reported on this form and in the documents attached below is accurate.

(2020)	Progress Report on 5 Year Plan				
(3009)	Carrier certifies to 54.313(f)(1)(iii)			161	
(3010A)	Certification of Public Interest Obligations {47 CFR § 54.313(f)(1)(i)}	Y	es - Att	ach Certifica	330936WI3010.pdf
(3010B)	Please Provide Attachment	Name of Attached Docu Information	ıment Lis	ting Required	
(3012A)	Community Anchor Institutions {47 CFR § 54.313(f)(1)(ii)}	No - No New Community	Anchors		
(3012B)	Please Provide Attachment	Name of Attached Docu Information	ıment Lis	ting Required	
(3013)	Is your company a Privately Held ROR Carrier {47 CFR § 54.313(f)(2)}	(Yes/No)	<b>O</b>	0	
(3014)	If yes, does your company file the RUS annual report	(Yes/No)	O	•	
(3015)	Please check these boxes to confirm that the attached PDF, on line 3017, contains the required information pursuant to § 54.313(f)(2) compliance requires:  Electronic copy of their annual RUS reports				
(3016)	(Operating Report for Telecommunications Borrowers) Document(s) with Balance Sheet, Income Statement				
	and Statement of Cash Flows				
(3017)	If the response is yes on line 3014, attach your company's RUS annual report and all required documentation	Name of Attached Docu Information	ıment Lis	ting Required	
(3018)	If the response is no on line 3014, is your company audited? If the response is yes on line 3018, please check the boxes below to confirm your submission on line 3026 pursuant to § 54.313(f)(2), contains:	(Yes/No)	•	0	
(3019)	Either a copy of their audited financial statement; or (2) a financial report in a format comparable to RUS Operating Report for Telecommunications Borrowers			<i>ν</i>	
(3020)	Document(s) for Balance Sheet, Income Statement and Statement of Cash Flows			V	
(3021)	Management letter and/or audit opinion issued by the independent certified public accountant that performed the company's financial audit. If the response is no on line 3018, please check the boxes below to confirm your submission on line 3026 pursuant to § 54.313(f)(2), contains:			V	
(3022)	Copy of their financial statement which has been subject to review by an independent certified public accountant; or 2) a financial report in a format comparable to RUS Operating Report for Telecommunications Borrowers				
(3023)	Underlying information subjected to a review by an independent certified public accountant				
(3024)	Underlying information subjected to an officer certification.				
(3025)	Document(s) with Balance Sheet, Income Statement and Statement of Cash Flows				330936WI3026.pdf
(3026)	Attach the worksheet listing required information	Name of Attached Docu Information	ıment Lis	ting Required	

(3005) Rate Of Return Carrier Additional Documentation (Continued)

Data Collection Form

OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	330936
<015>	Study Area Name	INDIANHEAD TEL CO
<020>	Program Year	2018
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	PAMELA HINTZ
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	6516218535 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	phintz@otcpas.com

#### **Financial Data Summary**

(3027) Revenue

(3028) Operating Expenses

(3029) Net Income

(3030) Telephone Plant In Service(TPIS)

(3031) Total Assets

(3032) Total Debt

(3033) Total Equity

(3034) Dividends



(4005) Rural Broadband Experiment Additional Documentation **Data Collection Form** 

FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	330936
<015>	Study Area Name	INDIANHEAD TEL CO
<020>	Program Year	2018
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	PAMELA HINTZ
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data lir	e <030> 6516218535 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data li	ne <030> phintz@otcpas.com

#### 4005 Rural Broadband Experiment

Authorized Rural Broadband Experiment (RBE) recipients must address the certification for public interest obligations, provide a list of newly served community anchor institutions, and provide a list of locations where broadband has been deployed.

#### Public Interest Obligations - FCC 14-98 (paragraphs 26-29, 78)

Please address Line 4001 regarding compliance with the Commission's public interest obligations. All RBE participants must provide a response to Line 4001.

**4001**. Recipient certifies that it is offering broadband to the identified locations meeting the requisite public interest obligations consistent with the category for which they were selected, including broadband speed, latency, usage capacity, and rates that are reasonably comparable to rates for comparable offerings in urban areas?

#### Community Anchor Institutions – FCC 14-98 (paragraph 79)

4003a. RBE participants must provide the number, names, and addresses of community anchor institutions to which they newly deployed broadband service in the preceding calendar year. On this line, please respond (yes – attach new community anchors, no – no new anchors) to indicate whether this list will be provided.

#### If yes to 4003A, please provide a response for 4003B.

speed and data usage allowances available in the

relevant geographic area.

4003b. Provide the number, names and addresses Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information of community anchor institutions to which the recipient newly began providing access to broadband service in the preceding calendar year. Broadband Deployment Locations - FCC 14-98 (paragraph 80) **4004a**. Attach a list of geocoded locations to which broadband has been deployed as of the June 1st immediately preceding the July 1st filing Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information deadline for the FCC Form 481. 4004b. Attach evidence demonstrating that the recipient is meeting the relevant public service obligations for the identified locations. Materials must at least detail the pricing, offered broadband Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information

	tion - Reporting Carrier lection Form		Form 481 3 Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 2013
<010>	Study Area Code	330936	
<015>	Study Area Name	INDIANHEAD TEL CO	
<020>	Program Year	2018	
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	PAMELA HINTZ	
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	6516218535 ext.	
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	phintz@otcpas.com	

#### TO BE COMPLETED BY THE REPORTING CARRIER, IF THE REPORTING CARRIER IS FILING ANNUAL REPORTING ON ITS OWN BEHALF:

Certification of Officer as to th	ne Accuracy of the Data Reported for the Annual Reporting for CAF or LI Recipients		
I certify that I am an officer of the reporting carrier; my responsibilities include ensuring the accuracy of the annual reporting requirements for universal service support recipients; and, to the best of my knowledge, the information reported on this form and in any attachments is accurate.			
Name of Reporting Carrier:			
Signature of Authorized Officer:	Date		
Printed name of Authorized Officer:			
Title or position of Authorized Officer:			
Telephone number of Authorized Officer:			
Study Area Code of Reporting Carrier:	Filing Due Date for this form:		
Persons willfully making false statements on this form can b	e punished by fine or forfeiture under the Communications Act of 1934, 47 U.S.C. §§ 502, 503(b), or fine or imprisonment under Title 18 of the United States Code, 18 U.S.C. § 1001.		

	ion - Agent / Carrier ection Form	FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013	819
<010>	Study Area Code	330936	
<015>	Study Area Name	INDIANHEAD TEL CO	
<020>	Program Year	2018	
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	PAMELA HINTZ	
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	6516218535 ext.	
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	phintz@otcpas.com	

#### TO BE COMPLETED BY THE REPORTING CARRIER, IF AN AGENT IS FILING ANNUAL REPORTS ON THE CARRIER'S BEHALF:

Certification of Officer to Authorize an Agent to File Annual Reports for CAF or LI Recipients on Behalf of Reporting Carrier					
certify that (Name of Agent) Olsen Thielen is authorized to submit the information reported on behalf of the reporting carrier. I also certify that I am an officer of the reporting carrier; my responsibilities include ensuring the accuracy of the annual data reporting requirements provided to the authorized agent; and, to the best of my knowledge, the reports and data provided to the authorized agent is accurate.					
Name of Authorized Agent: Olsen Thielen					
Name of Reporting Carrier: INDIANHEAD TEL CO					
Signature of Authorized Officer: CERTIFIED ONLINE	Date: 06/13/2017				
Printed name of Authorized Officer: William Eckles					
Title or position of Authorized Officer: President					
Telephone number of Authorized Officer: 5075263252 ext.					
Study Area Code of Reporting Carrier: 330936	Filing Due Date for this form: 07/03/2017				
, 9	ed by fine or forfeiture under the Communications Act of 1934, 47 U.S.C. §§ 502, 503(b), or fine or imprisonment Title 18 of the United States Code, 18 U.S.C. § 1001.				

#### TO BE COMPLETED BY THE AUTHORIZED AGENT:

Certification of Agent Authorized to File Annual Reports for CAF or	LI Recipients on Behalf of Reportin	g Carrier
, as agent for the reporting carrier, certify that I am authorized to submit the annual reports for universal serv	ice support recipients on behalf of the rep	porting carrier; I have provided
the data reported herein based on data provided by the reporting carrier; and, to the best of my knowledge, th	ne information reported herein is accurate	<b>2.</b>
Name of Reporting Carrier: INDIANHEAD TEL CO		
Name of Authorized Agent Firm: Olsen Thielen		
Signature of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent: CERTIFIED ONLINE	Date:	06/08/2017
Name of Authorized Agent Employee: Olsen Thielen		
Title or position of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent Consultant		
Telephone number of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent: 6516218511 ext.		
Study Area Code of Reporting Carrier: 330936 Filing Due Date for this form:	07/03/2017	
Persons willfully making false statements on this form can be punished by fine or forfeiture under the Communica 18 of the United States Code, 18 U.S.C. §		fine or imprisonment under Title

Attachments

	ce Offerings including Voice Rate Data lection Form		FCC Form 481  OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
<010>	Study Area Code	330936	
<015>	Study Area Name	INDIANHEAD TEL CO	
<020>	Program Year	2018	
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	PAMELA HINTZ	
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	6516218535 ext.	
<039> Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>		phintz@otcpas.com	

1/1/2017

<703>

<701> Residential Local Service Charge Effective Date
<702> Single State-wide Residential Local Service Charge

42.15	<a2></a2>	<a3></a3>	<b1></b1>	<b2></b2>	<b3></b3>	<b4></b4>	<b5></b5>	400
<a1></a1>	<97>	<83>	<01>	Residential Local	<03>	<04>	Mandatory Extended Area	<c></c>
State	Exchange (ILEC)	SAC (CETC)	Rate Type	Service Rate	State Subscriber Line Charge	State Universal Service Fee	Service Charge	Total per line Rates and Fees
WI	All		FR	22.75	0.0	0.65	0.0	23.4

(710) Broadband Price Offerings	FCC Form 481
Data Collection Form	OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
	July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	330936
<015>	Study Area Name	INDIANHEAD TEL CO
<020>	Program Year	2018
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	PAMELA HINTZ
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	6516218535 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	phintz@otcpas.com

<711>	<a1></a1>	<a2></a2>	<b1></b1>	<b2></b2>	<c> <d1></d1></c>	<d2></d2>	> <d3></d3>		<d4></d4>
	State	Exchange (ILEC)	Residential Rate	State Regulated Fees	Total Rates and Fees	Broadband Service - Download Speed (Mbps)	Broadband Service -Upload Speed (Mbps)	Usage Allowance (GB)	Usage Allowance Action Taken When Limit Reached {select}
	WI	All	39.95	0.0	39.95	4.0	1.0	999999.0	Other, No limit on usage allowance
	WI	All	49.95	0.0	49.95	8.0	1.0	999999.0	Other, No limit on usage allowance
	WI	All	59.95	0.0	59.95	15.0	1.0	999999.0	Other, No limit on usage allowance
	WI	All	9.95	0.0	9.95	4.0	1.0	999999.0	Other, No limit on usage allowance
	WI	All	69.95	0.0	69.95	25.0	6.0	999999.0	Other, No limit on usage allowance

(800) Operating Companies				FCC Form 481
Data Coll	lection Form			OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
•				
<010>	Study Area Code		330936	
<015>	Study Area Name		INDIANHEAD TEL CO	
<020>	Program Year		2018	
<030>	Contact Name - Person U	SAC should contact regarding this data	PAMELA HINTZ	
<035>	Contact Telephone Numb	per - Number of person identified in data line <030>	6516218535 ext.	
<039>	Contact Email Address - E	mail Address of person identified in data line <030>	phintz@otcpas.com	
	_			
<810>	Reporting Carrier	Indianhead Telephone Company		
<811>	Holding Company	Rural Communications Holding Corporation		
<812>	Operating Company	Indianhead Telephone Company		

813>	<a1></a1>	<a2></a2>	<a3></a3>
	Affiliates	SAC	Doing Business As Company or Brand Designation
	Blue Earth Valley Telephone Company	361358	BEVCOMM
	Eckles Telephone Company	361386	BEVCOMM
	Easton Telephone Company	361384	BEVCOMM
	Cannon Valley Telecom, Inc.	361440	BEVCOMM
	BEVCOMM, Inc.		BEVCOMM
	Indianhead Telephone Company	330936	BEVCOMM
	Pine Island Telephone Company	361454	BEVCOMM
	Hager Telecom Incorporated	330889	BEVCOMM
	Granada Telephone Company	361399	BEVCOMM

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SAC: 330936 State: Wisconsin Indianhead Tel Co

165.065 Emergency operation.

Form 481 Line No.: 510 Compliance with Service Quality Standards and Consumer Protection

As required by the Wisconsin Public Service Commission (PSC) Chapter 165 Rules, the local services provided by Indianhead Tel Co are provided under internal company operating procedures and publically available tariffs which are in compliance with applicable Wisconsin PSC orders and rules including:

## WI Chapter PSC 165 STANDARDS FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE

165.010	General.	165.066	Protection of utility facilities.
165.020	Definitions.	165.067	Interference with public service
165.031	Retention of records.		structures.
165.032	Schedules to be filed with the	165.070	Provision for testing.
	commission.	165.071	Meter and recording equipment test
165.033	Exchange area boundaries.		facilities.
165.034	Utility accidents and interruptions.	165.072	Accuracy requirements.
165.040	Meter reading records.	165.073	Initial test.
165.041	Meter reading interval.	165.074	As-found tests.
165.042	Billing recording equipment.	165.075	Routine tests.
165.043	Information available to customers.	165.076	Request tests.
165.050	Customer billing.	165.077	Referee tests.
165.051	Deposits.	165.078	Test records.
165.052	Disconnection and refusal of service.	165.082	Traffic and operator rules.
165.0525	Deferred payment agreement.	165.083	Answering time objectives.
165.053	Customer complaints.	165.084	Dial service objectives.
165.0535	Dispute procedures.	165.085	Interoffice trunks.
165.054	Held applications.	165.086	Transmission requirements.
165.055	Directories.	165.087	Minimum transmission objectives.
165.060	Construction.	165.088	Public telephone service.
165.061	Maintenance of plant and equipment.	165.089	Interruptions of service.
165.062	Line fills.	165.090	Protective measures.
165.063	Central office equipment.	165.091	Safety program.
165.064	Interconnection service standards.		

Page 1 of 1

SAC: 330936 State: Wisconsin Indianhead Tel Co

Form 481 Line No: 610 Description of Functionality in Emergency Situations

Indianhead Tel Co pursuant to Wisconsin Public Service Commission rule "165.065 Emergency Operation" has:

- Established reasonable provisions to meet emergencies resulting from national security requirements, failures of lighting or power service, sudden and prolonged increases in traffic, illness or personnel, or from fire, storm, or similar emergencies. These provisions meet or exceed the rule requirement to provide:
  - Back up battery service in each central office.
  - Mobile power units that can be delivered on short notice and can be readily connected in offices without installed emergency power facilities.
- Informed employees as to procedures to be followed in the event of an emergency in order to prevent or mitigate interruption or impairment of telecommunications service, including rerouting of traffic around damaged facilities and the deployment of emergency power.

SAC: 330936 State: WI

Indianhead Tel Co

Form 481, Line No. 920, Tribal Government Engagement Obligation

\_\_\_\_\_

Indianhead Tel Co serves the Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa with phone and internet services. A letter was sent in 2016 requesting a conversation to discuss any and all options to better serve the tribal areas. Copies of the compliance filing associated with Federal dockets related to serving tribal areas was sent to the Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa. Additional follow up is planned for 2017.



123 West 7th Street • Blue Earth, MN 56013 507-526-5156 • 1-877-864-5156 • Fax: 507-526-4963 www.bevcomm.net

December 21, 2016

Lac Courte Oreilles Band Mr. Michael Ishan, Jr. 13394 West Trepania Road Hayward, WI 54843

Re: FCC Order 11-161, DA 12-1165 Tribal Land Engagement.

Dear Sir:

Earlier this year, you were sent notification from the accounting firm of Olsen Thielen and a copy of Indianhead Telephone Company's Form 481 High Cost and Low-Income Annual Report that was filed with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

As part of the USF/FCC Transformation order, the FCC adopted a Tribal government engagement requirement for all eligible telecommunications carriers that are currently serving or are seeking to serve tribal lands. For ease of reference I have enclosed a copy of the Public Notice that was released by the FCC Office of Native Affairs and Policy.

Indianhead Telephone Company d/b/a BEVCOMM serves a portion of the Lac Courte Oreilles Band Tribal area with telephone and internet service. I am writing you today to initiate conversation with your Tribal government and leaders to discuss any and all options to better serve your lands with high speed technology. Specifically, I would like to discuss your communications goals, needs and priorities. Once that is clear we can discuss the feasibility and sustainability of BEVCOMM deploying these services to your area.

Please contact me at your convenience:

James L. Beattie BEVCOMM 123 W. Seventh Street Blue Earth, MN 56013 (507) 526-1145 jbeattie@bevcomm.com

Sincerely,

ames L. Beattie

Director of Government Relations & General Counsel

ILB: mo

Enclosure

Federal Communications Commission 445 12<sup>th</sup> St., S.W. Washington, D.C. 20554

News Media Information 202 / 418-0500 Internet: http://www.fcc.gov TTY: 1-888-835-5322

DA 12-1165

Released: July 19, 2012

OFFICE OF NATIVE AFFAIRS AND POLICY,
WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS BUREAU, AND
WIRELINE COMPETITION BUREAU ISSUE FURTHER GUIDANCE ON
TRIBAL GOVERNMENT ENGAGEMENT OBLIGATION PROVISIONS OF THE
CONNECT AMERICA FUND

WC Docket Nos. 10-90, 07-135, 05-337, 03-109 CC Docket Nos. 01-92, 96-45 WT Docket No. 10-208 GN Docket No. 09-51

#### I. INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY

- 1. By this Public Notice, the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC or Commission) Office of Native Affairs and Policy (ONAP), in coordination with the Wireless Telecommunications and Wireline Competition Bureaus (the Bureaus), provides further guidance on the Tribal engagement obligation adopted in the *USF/ICC Transformation Order*.<sup>1</sup> This document is intended to facilitate the required discussions between Tribal government officials and communications providers either currently providing or seeking to provide service on Tribal lands with the use of Universal Service Fund (USF) support.<sup>2</sup>
- 2. The broad goal of the guidance provided today, and future efforts to establish best practices, is to ensure the effective exchange of information that will lead to a common understanding between Tribal governments and communications providers receiving USF support, on the deployment and improvement of communications services on Tribal lands. The Tribal engagement obligation is intended to benefit Tribal government leaders, service providers, and consumers living on Tribal lands, ultimately providing greater connectivity to 21<sup>st</sup> century economic opportunities, education, health care, and public safety. This obligation is related to the very essence of universal service facilitating and supporting connectivity to and from the most remote areas of our nation inures to the benefit of all. Requiring Tribal engagement is intended to begin and, in some cases, to strengthen, the dialogue between communications providers and Tribal governments. We anticipate that genuine dialogue and common understandings will ultimately lead to improvement of communications services on Tribal lands.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> See Connect America Fund, WC Docket No. 10-90 et al., Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 26 FCC 17663 at 17868-69, para. 637 (2011) (USF/ICC Transformation Order); pets. for review pending sub nom. In re: FCC 11-161, No. 11-9900 (10th Cir. filed Dec. 18, 2011).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> See id. In the context of the USF/ICC Transformation Order, "Tribal lands" is defined as "any federally recognized Indian tribe's reservation, pueblo or colony, including former reservations in Oklahoma, Alaska Native regions established pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlements [sic] Act (85 Stat. 688), and Indian Allotments, see 47 C.F.R. § 54.400(e), as well as Hawaiian Home Lands—areas held in trust for native Hawaiians by the state of Hawaii, pursuant to the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, 1920, Act July 9, 1921, 42 Stat. 108, et seq., as amended." Id. at para. 125, n.197.

- 3. Good guidance, by definition, must include assistance on how to undertake an endeavor with an aim towards success. Any attempt at actual and meaningful dialogue must be predicated on the genuineness of the intent on both sides. This engagement cannot be viewed as simply another "check the box" requirement by either party. In many places, we expect that there are good and productive relationships between communications providers and Tribal Nations. To the extent that there might be existing differences, however, the parties should put aside those differences for the purposes of this engagement. This engagement process should not be approached as an adversarial undertaking. Instead, Tribal governments and carriers should take advantage of the engagement to improve communications and foster a greater common understanding of the factors necessary to deploy and sustain services on Tribal lands, as well as an honest dialogue to learn from one another what factors would lead to success in those endeavors. In all cases, a high degree of receptivity and responsiveness is necessary to achieve meaningful dialogue, as well as confidence in the reliability of information exchanged. Candid and sincere dialogue on both sides will minimize the possibility that unreasonable expectations by either party will derail common understandings and genuine solutions.
- 4. Creating a substantive, meaningful dialogue is an iterative process, one which, in certain regions, is at its earliest stages of development. In a similar sense, the further guidance contained in this Public Notice represents the first step in the Commission's implementation of the Tribal engagement obligation. We recognize that priorities and plans of individual Tribal governments and individual service providers can vary greatly, as do the existing relationships between Tribal governments and carriers currently serving Tribal lands. Therefore, there is no one size fits all guidance that can be provided that will be universally applicable. As a result, the guidance provided herein is somewhat general in nature at this stage, but we anticipate that our guidance, as well as the development of best practices, will evolve over time based on initial implementation experiences and the feedback of both Tribal governments and communications providers.
- 5. ONAP, in coordination with the Bureaus, will track and monitor this feedback and will develop further guidance in the form of best practices based on actual experiences. In an effort to further facilitate engagement efforts at this initial stage, ONAP will employ training and industry meeting opportunities, as well as its coordination events with Tribal Nations. These efforts will include, for example, working with national and regional communications industry associations and national and regional inter-Tribal government associations and organizations. ONAP will focus particular efforts—for example, by identifying commonalities, increasing efficiencies, building upon current working relationships, and engaging all regional stakeholders, as appropriate—to foster engagement in states and regions in which Tribes and providers are particularly remote and in which Tribes are particularly numerous. ONAP, in coordination with the Bureaus, will continue to serve as a resource for Tribal governments and communications providers and is always available for individually tailored assistance.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> See id. at para. 637, n.1054 (directing ONAP, in coordination with the Bureaus, to develop best practices).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> See Letter from the Hon. Mark Begich, United States Senator, State of Alaska; the Hon. Lisa Murkowski, United States Senator, State of Alaska; and the Hon. Don Young, United States Congressman, State of Alaska, to the Hon. Julius Genachowski, Chairman, FCC, dated Feb. 22, 2012 ("[W]e request that you work with the tribal groups, carriers and the State of Alaska to clarify the tribal consultation requirements included in the reform order"). See also Letter of Becky Hultberg, Commissioner, Department of Administration, State of Alaska, to the Hon. Julius Genachowski, Chairman, FCC, dated February 17, 2012.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> For example, there are 229 federally recognized Tribes in Alaska, 108 in California, 38 in Oklahoma, 23 in New Mexico, and 21 in Arizona. *See* Federal Register Notice – Indian Entities Recognized and Eligible to Receive Services from the United States Bureau of Indian Affairs, 75 Fed. Reg. 60,810 (Oct. 1, 2010). *See also* Supplemental Federal Register Notice – Indian Entities 1 Page Recognized and Eligible to Receive Services from the United State Bureau of Indian Affairs, 75 Fed. Reg. 66,124 (Oct. 27, 2010).

#### II. BACKGROUND

- 6. In the *USF/ICC Transformation Order*, the Commission adopted a Tribal engagement requirement for all eligible telecommunications carriers (ETCs) either currently serving or seeking to serve Tribal lands.<sup>6</sup> The Commission agreed with commenters that engagement between Tribal governments and communications providers is vitally important to the successful deployment of and provision of service on Tribal lands.<sup>7</sup>
- 7. The Commission therefore required, at a minimum, that ETCs demonstrate on an annual basis that they have meaningfully engaged with Tribal governments in their universal service supported areas.<sup>8</sup> At a minimum, the *USF/ICC Order* stated that such discussions must include: (1) a needs assessment and deployment planning with a focus on Tribal community anchor institutions; (2) feasibility and sustainability planning; (3) marketing services in a culturally sensitive manner; (4) rights of way processes, land use permitting, facilities siting, environmental and cultural preservation review processes; and (5) compliance with Tribal business and licensing requirements.<sup>9</sup> Failure to satisfy the Tribal engagement obligation will subject ETCs to financial consequences, including potential reduction in universal service support should they fail to fulfill their engagement obligations.<sup>10</sup>
- 8. In requiring Tribal engagement, the Commission did not intend to supplant its own ongoing obligation to consult with Tribes on a government-to-government basis, but instead recognized the important role that all parties play in expediting communications service to Tribal lands throughout the nation, including in Alaska and Hawaii. ETCs will be required to submit to the Commission and appropriate Tribal government officials an annual certification and summary of their compliance with the Tribal government engagement obligation as part of the new Connect America Fund reporting requirements. The Commission defined appropriate Tribal government officials as elected or duly authorized government officials of federally recognized American Indian Tribes and Alaska Native Villages. For Hawaiian Home Lands, this engagement must occur with the State of Hawaii Department of Hawaiian Home Lands and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs. The Commission delegated to ONAP, in coordination with the Bureaus, the authority to develop specific procedures regarding the Tribal

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> See USF/ICC Transformation Order, 26 FCC Rcd at 17868-69, para. 637.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Id. Mobility Fund and Tribal Mobility Fund Phase I winning bidders will be required to comply with this Tribal engagement obligation at the long-form application stage, in annual reports, and prior to any disbursement of support. Id. at para. 489. We note, however, that any such engagement must be done consistent with our auction rules prohibiting certain communications during the competitive bidding process. Id. at para. 810. In the Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, the Commission proposed to apply the same Tribal engagement obligation to Phase II of the general and Tribal Mobility Funds and sought comment on that proposal. Id. at para. 1166.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Id. at para. 637. See also 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.313(a)(9), 54.1004(d), 54.1009.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> *Id.* 

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> See USF/ICC Transformation Order, 26 FCC Rcd at 17868-69, para. 637.

<sup>11</sup> Id.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Id. See also id. at para. 575 ("Under this uniform framework, ETCs will provide annual reports and certifications regarding specific aspects of their compliance with public interest obligations to the Commission, USAC [the Universal Service Administrative Company], and the relevant state commission, relevant authority in a U.S. Territory, or Tribal government, as appropriate by April 1 of each year.") See generally id. at paras. 576-606 (articulating specific reporting requirements). See also Connect America Fund, WC Docket No. 10-90 et al., Order, 27 FCC Red 2142 at 2144-47, paras. 4-14 (2012) (USF/ICC Clarification Order) (revising and clarifying certain reporting obligations for recipients of Connect America Fund support).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> USF/ICC Transformation Order, 26 FCC Rcd at 17869, para. 637, n.1053.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Id.

#### **Federal Communications Commission**

engagement process, as necessary.<sup>15</sup> The Commission also directed ONAP, in coordination with the Bureaus, to develop best practices regarding the Tribal engagement process to help facilitate these discussions.<sup>16</sup>

## III. FURTHER GUIDANCE ON THE TRIBAL GOVERNMENT ENGAGEMENT OBLIGATION

#### A. Overview/General Guidance

- 9. As stated above, the purpose of this guidance is to ensure the effective exchange of information between Tribal governments and communications providers concerning the deployment and improvement of communications services on Tribal lands throughout the nation, including in Alaska and Hawaii. This exchange of information should foster new opportunities for genuine dialogue that could achieve an alignment of interests and goals. Between certain carriers and Tribal governments, this will be an opportunity for introduction and dialogue in the first instance. In other parts of the country, this will be an opportunity for a new depth of dialogue and more meaningful interaction. An important goal of this guidance is the achievement of a level of engagement between principals on both sides that represents collaborative discussions and actual live conversation.<sup>17</sup> We encourage stakeholders to go beyond merely perfunctory exchanges of basic documents, simplistic sales or marketing presentations, or one-dimensional lists of demands.
- 10. It is imperative that this dialogue be undertaken at a level within communications providers and Tribal governments that is commensurate with this important engagement requirement. The discourse should be between decision-makers on both sides. While it may be necessary to include administrative staff on both sides to administer and maintain the continuity of relations, this engagement cannot be merely between sales and marketing individuals on one side and administrative staff or advisors on the other. The perspectives on needs, expectations, priorities, and abilities that would formulate meaningful exchange often can come only from those with the requisite authority to make decisions.
- 11. On the Tribal government side, there are certain actions that should be taken to best prepare for this valuable engagement. It is important for Tribal leaders to recognize and act upon this opportunity to become organized, maintain continuity, and provide for certainty in conveying their communications needs and priorities. The Commission has long recognized the right of sovereign Tribal governments "to set their own communications priorities and goals for the welfare of their membership." This is a critical time for Tribal Nations to update and make comprehensive their communications priorities and goals. Tribal governments should consider all community needs that would be supported by communications services. These might include, but are not limited to, anchor institutions, economic development, education, healthcare, and public safety. Each Tribal Nation has unique elements to its communications needs and priorities, but effectively articulating those needs is a critical first step in addressing them.
- 12. As Tribal government administrations change and develop, this is an important opportunity to demonstrate, both to communications providers and to the Commission, their continuity in communications priorities and goals. Certain Tribal governments have created their own governmental

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> Id. Although our focus here is on providing guidance, the Commission thus will consider the need for further guidance, or to clarify the existing rules regarding Tribal engagement or pursue new rules with specific procedures, if warranted in the future based on actual experiences and outcomes resulting from this guidance.

<sup>16</sup> Id. at n.1054.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> For example, engagement may occur when necessary by phone or video conference where extreme weather conditions and/or extreme remoteness are present.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> Statement of Policy on Establishing a Government-to-Government Relationship with Indian Tribes, 16 FCC Rcd 4078, 4080-81 (2000) (*Tribal Policy Statement*).

offices and commissions to interact with the FCC and communications providers. Others have designated key members of their Tribal Councils to lead their communications prerogatives for their governments, in effect creating communications committees on their Councils. Other Tribes have yet to organize their governmental or administrative systems with respect to communications services. This engagement obligation necessitates a level of organization within the Tribal government that can convey both a high degree of certainty in the communications priorities of the Tribal Nation and maintain the continuity of those priorities to the greatest extent possible in a governmental environment that, by definition, changes over time. Updating Tribal communications priorities and goals, and ensuring the establishment of effective organizational structures concerning communications issues, are important first steps. However, ETCs must begin the Tribal engagement process this year to be able to report on meaningful engagement by July 1, 2013. Therefore, Tribal governments may need to take interim measures in the short term as they consider establishing new or modified communications goals and priorities.

- 13. Tribal Nations also should immediately begin preparations to receive, record, and process this engagement dialogue and any related correspondence. Specific efforts should be made to chronicle details of engagement dialogue sessions. Recordkeeping should be established for documentation of the initial contact, any follow-up communications, and the resulting annual certification documentation. Records should include, for example, a summary of all verbal interactions as well as copies of all electronic and hard copy communications.<sup>20</sup>
- 14. Similarly, communications providers should take immediate steps to prepare for and initiate engagement with the Tribal governments whose lands they serve. Certifications articulating the steps taken to comply with the annual Tribal engagement obligation in 2012 are due on July 1, 2013 and each year thereafter. That is, the Tribal engagement obligation must be fulfilled by the end of each calendar year. Communications providers should, for example, take immediate steps to establish a lead and/or a team within their companies and to identify the appropriate Tribal government leaders with whom they will initiate the engagement process. The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI)<sup>22</sup> maintains a routinely updated and comprehensive directory of American Indian Tribal and Alaska Native Village government leaders, addresses, and telephone numbers. The NCAI Tribal directory can be sorted by geographical area and can be found at <a href="http://www.ncai.org/tribal-directory">http://www.ncai.org/tribal-directory</a>. Where needed, ONAP also will serve as a resource for communications providers and Tribal governments.
- 15. In addition, communications providers should retain copies of all communications with Tribal leaders they would need in order to demonstrate compliance with their annual certification requirement. In the event that a Tribal government does not respond to repeated efforts to engage, the provider should document all attempts at engagement and certify to that effect. As with the entire engagement process, reasonableness should prevail. As a general matter, we expect that a provider would not be penalized for a failure to respond on the part of a Tribal Nation, if the provider can demonstrate repeated good faith efforts to meaningfully engage with the Tribal government.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> See Connect America Fund, WC Docket No. 10-90 et al., Third Order on Reconsideration, FCC 12-52 at para. 10 (rel. May 14, 2012) (Third Reconsideration Order) (changing the filing deadline from April 1 to July 1).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> For example, all ETCs receiving high-cost are now subject to a 10-year document retention requirement. *See USF/ICC Transformation Order*, 26 FCC Rcd at 17864, para. 620. *See also Third Reconsideration Order*, FCC 12-52 at para. 14.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> See Third Reconsideration Order, FCC 12-52 at para. 10. See also 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.313, 54.1009...

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> NCAI is the nation's oldest, largest, and most representative inter-Tribal government and communities organization, representing American Indian Tribes and Alaska Native Villages.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> For a listing of all federally recognized American Indian Tribes and Alaska Native Villages, see <a href="https://www.bia.gov/cs/groups/xofa/documents/document/idc012038.pdf">www.bia.gov/cs/groups/xofa/documents/document/idc012038.pdf</a>. ONAP, in coordination with the Bureaus, will endeavor to provide additional resources to Tribal governments and carriers to help facilitate this engagement, including the possibility of using the Commission's website as a repository of information.

#### B. Needs Assessment and Deployment Planning

- 16. Tribal governments play a vital role in identifying and serving the needs and interests of their local communities, often in remote, insular, cyclically impoverished communities with a historic lack of critical infrastructure. Tribal government leaders are intimately acquainted with their members' needs and have valuable insight into how to meet them. "Tribal-centric" business models those that actively engage the Tribe, its core community institutions, and members in deployment and adoption planning have a greater chance of establishing sustainable services on Tribal lands. Communications providers also have experience and a valuable perspective on the challenges, economics, and other realities of providing service to remote, low-income, and underserved regions of the country, including certain Tribal lands.
- 17. The Tribal engagement obligation provides Tribal governments and communications providers alike with a new opportunity the opportunity to have a genuine conversation about communications needs and deployment planning on Tribal lands. When telephone service was originally deployed, there was no such obligation and, as a result, in many instances, Tribal needs and carrier deployment efforts were not aligned. The Tribal engagement obligation affords both Tribal governments and communications providers the opportunity to move forward with a shared vision. This will only occur, however, if Tribal governments and communications providers alike take advantage of this historic opportunity to improve the communications landscape on Tribal lands.
- 18. To that end, Tribal governments should come to the table with a serious, well-thought out assessment of the Tribes' communications needs. Issues that Tribal governments should consider include, for example, the Tribe's communications goals, needs, and priorities, as well as what the Tribe intends to do with communications services (e.g., provide connectivity to those living on Tribal lands, encourage economic opportunity). Tribal governments should also assess what core community or anchor institutions are central to deployment, and what in the nature and operations of these institutions is relevant to the need for communications services. In addition, Tribal governments should consider whether there are economic factors and possibly Tribally-driven opportunities that will assist in making the business case for deployment on Tribal lands, as well as opportunities where Tribal governments and communications providers can partner. In analyzing and discussing communications goals, needs, and priorities, Tribal governments should note that recipients of Connect America Fund (CAF) support, including the Mobility Fund, are subject to public interest obligations, as established in the *USF/ICC Transformation Order*.<sup>25</sup>
- 19. Similarly, communications providers should come to the table ready to articulate their deployment priorities, the process by which they arrived at these priorities, and their initial plans for deployment on Tribal lands. Issues that communications providers should be prepared to discuss include, for example, the services they currently deploy, and what services they intend to deploy, on Tribal lands. Providers should also be prepared to discuss their timelines for the provision of services not currently available on Tribal lands, as well as their priorities in terms of service and the factors that led them to prioritize deployment to particular areas. Communications providers should also identify any opportunities they envision to partner with Tribal governments.

#### C. Feasibility and Sustainability Planning

20. Feasibility and sustainability planning for communications services on Tribal lands presents issues of concern for both Tribal governments and communications providers. Tribal governments generally want services rapidly deployed for their members to support the economic, educational, public safety, and health care opportunities that communications services afford. Communications providers

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> See Improving Communications Services for Native Nations, CG Docket No. 11-41, Notice of Inquiry, 26 FCC Rcd 2672, 2679-80, para. 12 (2011) (Native Nations NOI).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup> See USF/ICC Transformation Order, 26 FCC Rcd at 17691-17709, paras. 74-114.

generally want business models that will be practical in terms of build out, and viable in terms of revenue flow and quality of service. While some commonalities likely exist, we believe there are many differences from one provider to another and from one Tribal government to another. The Tribal engagement obligation affords both parties the opportunity to share specific perspectives and information and to begin charting a path forward to address feasibility and sustainability in coordination with one another.

- 21. Tribal lands nationwide face some of the greatest challenges to the feasibility and sustainability of a 21st century communications infrastructure, including rugged and remote terrain and often endemic levels of poverty. Therefore, communications build out plans based purely on population density or proximity to other robust networks can face major cost benefit analysis challenges. Tribal government leaders, who are largely responsible for managing a wide array of government services and economic opportunities for their communities, are uniquely situated to advise communications providers of the specific challenges associated with deploying and sustaining a communications network on their lands. The Tribal engagement obligation will facilitate discussion between Tribal government leaders and communications providers, affording providers an important opportunity to draw upon the knowledge gained to inform and coordinate their feasibility and sustainability planning.
- 22. Tribal Nations should be prepared to discuss any additional resources they may bring to bear in feasibility and sustainability planning for communications services, because many federal grant or loan programs provide direct access to, or particular standing for, Tribal Nations and their entities. That is, there are federal government programs that support infrastructure deployment and support the economic, health, safety, and welfare missions in Native communities—the very same priorities for the deployment of robust communications networks on Tribal lands. For example, Tribes may be considering business ventures that would benefit from coordination on communications planning at the outset. Together, providers and Tribal Nations have the opportunity to discuss how to coordinate in planning, providing, and meeting the expenses for communications services on Tribal lands.
- 23. When addressing the issues of sustainability on Tribal lands, one must also calibrate expectations and develop an awareness of the unique nature of Tribal communities. Issues such as cyclical poverty, remoteness, and deployment priorities all inform the potential sustainability and ultimate profitability of a particular communications model on Tribal lands. That is, it can take a longer period of time to develop a sustainable enterprise on many Tribal lands. Increased coordination between Tribal governments and communications providers on specific elements of feasibility will heighten the chances of ultimate sustainability for communications business models on Tribal lands.

#### D. Marketing Services in a Culturally Sensitive Manner

- 24. As noted above, for the purposes of the USF/ICC proceeding and, therefore, the Tribal engagement obligation, Tribal lands are comprised of the lands of the approximately 566 federally recognized American Indian Tribes and Alaska Native Villages, as well as Hawaiian Home Lands.<sup>26</sup> Tribal lands represent a rich and diverse array of cultural heritage, history, practices, and pride. Outside the context of Tribally owned and operated providers, however, seldom have these cultural factors been fully considered in the marketing and deployment of communications services on Tribal lands. The Tribal engagement obligation provides Tribal governments and communications providers with the opportunity to discuss and explore ways in which they can coordinate or partner to ensure that services are marketed in a manner that will relate directly to the community, resonate with consumers, and stimulate increased adoption of services on Tribal lands.
- 25. Issues that Tribal governments and communications providers may wish to discuss include the tailoring of service offerings to the community through, for example, the feasibility of a local presence in the community. For example, locating a retail presence within a Tribal community and employing

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup> See supra n.2.

members of that community may increase awareness of and sensitivity to local cultural and communications needs. Providers and Tribal governments also may wish to discuss whether developing materials, separately or jointly, specific to the Tribal community would be beneficial to either the provider or consumers on Tribal lands. In addition, providers and Tribal governments also may wish to discuss what other elements of their respective organizations may need to be engaged. For Tribal governments, this may mean administrative planning, community service, and other governmental offices. For providers, this may mean customer service, technical assistance, and commercial business divisions. Through a heightened mutual understanding of one another's needs, we anticipate that Tribal governments and communications providers may discover opportunities for working together that will yield benefits to all. Studies indicate that these efforts present genuine opportunities for success, because where Native Nations and their community members have access to broadband, their rates of Internet use are on par with, if not higher than, national averages.<sup>27</sup>

### E. Rights of Way and Other Permitting and Review Processes

- 26. There are numerous regulatory processes with which service providers must comply in order to provide communications services on Tribal lands, including rights of way, land use permitting, facilities siting, and environmental and cultural review processes. Certain of these processes involve other federal agencies, such as the Department of Interior's Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), and failure to comply with these processes may result in a finding of trespass. Given the widely varying circumstances on different Tribal lands, a one size fits all approach is not appropriate here. Instead, in the context of the Tribal engagement obligation, the common goal for Tribal governments and communications providers should be one of greater mutual understanding about the relevant rights of way and other permitting and review processes on Tribal lands and a plan for informing communications providers of procedures in a helpful and instructive manner, designed to bring companies into compliance, where applicable.
- 27. To that end, Tribal governments and communications providers should come to the table prepared to discuss the relevant rights of way and other permitting and review processes, as well as the challenges associated with these processes. For example, with respect to the BIA's appraisal process for rights of way, dialogue that prioritizes early notification might expedite Tribal governments' consultations with BIA and consent. Tribal governments should have a comprehensive list of all processes with which communications providers serving their Tribal lands are required to comply, such as rights of way, land use permitting, facilities siting, and environmental and cultural review processes. Communications providers should have documentation of any and all processes with which they currently comply. All of this information will provide the foundation for a substantive discussion of all requirements and steps for moving forward together.

### F. Compliance with Tribal Business and Licensing Requirements

28. As sovereign institutions, Tribal governments have the authority to impose Tribal business and licensing requirements on all entities doing business on their lands. While the type and form of requirements may vary greatly from one Tribal land to another, Tribal business and licensing requirements include business practice licenses that Tribal and non-Tribal business entities, whether located on or off Tribal lands, must obtain upon application to the relevant Tribal government office or division to conduct any business or trade, or deliver any goods or services, to the Tribe, Tribal members, or Tribal lands. The form of these licenses vary greatly, including certificates of public convenience and necessity, Tribal business licenses, master licenses, and other related forms of Tribal government

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup> See Traci L. Morris Ph.D., Native Public Media and Sascha D. Meinrath, New America Foundation, New Media, Technology and Indian Use in Indian Country: Quantitative and Qualitative Analyses (Nov. 19, 2009) (NPM/NAF New Media Study).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>28</sup> See USF/ICC Transformation Order, 26 FCC Rcd at 17868-69, para. 637.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>29</sup> See generally 25 C.F.R. Part 169 – Rights-of-Way Over Indian Lands.

licensure.30

29. As part of the Tribal engagement obligation, Tribal governments and communications providers should come to the table prepared to discuss in detail the relevant Tribal business and licensing requirements. Tribal governments should have a comprehensive list of any such requirements applicable to the provision of communications services. They should be prepared to provide an explanation of precisely what all such requirements entail, including specific application procedures and timeframes, as well as the governmental offices involved in the licensing process. Communications providers should be prepared to provide evidence of compliance with any Tribal business practice licenses with which they currently comply for that Tribe. Consistent with the discussion above regarding rights of way and other permitting and review processes, the common goal here should be one of greater mutual understanding about the relevant Tribal business licensing requirements and a plan for bringing companies into compliance, where applicable.

### IV. CONCLUSION

30. In conclusion, the Tribal engagement obligation represents an opportunity for Tribal governments and communications providers to coordinate on many issues critical to the deployment and adoption of communications technologies on Tribal lands. As discussed in the introduction, this guidance represents the first step in an iterative process. That is, this guidance will evolve over time based on initial experiences and feedback from Tribal governments and communications providers. In an effort to identify commonalities, increase efficiencies, and build upon current working relationships, ONAP will engage all regional stakeholders, as appropriate, and will respond to needs articulated by communications providers and Tribal governments.

#### V. CONTACTS

31. For further information concerning this guidance, contact the offices listed below:

Office of Native Affairs and Policy Geoffrey Blackwell at (202) 418-3629 Irene Flannery at (202) 418-1307

Wireless Telecommunications Bureau Sue McNeil at (202) 418-7619

Wireline Competition Bureau Joseph Cavender at (202) 418-1548

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 $<sup>^{30}</sup>$  See USF/ICC Transformation Order, 26 FCC Rcd at 17868-69, para. 637, n.1052.

SAC: 330936 State: WI

Indianhead Tel Co

Form 481 Line No. 1010 Descriptive document for Voice Services Rate Comparability

Line 1010 – Description of Voice Services Rate Comparability: Provide a detailed description of how your pricing of fixed voice services is no more than two standard deviations above the applicable national average urban rate for voice service, as published annually by the Wireline Competition Bureau, as required in 47 C.F.R. § 54.313(a)(10).

On February 14, 2017, the Wireline Competition Bureau announced results of the Urban Rate Survey for Voice Services as part of FCC Public Notice DA 17-167. Referenced in this public notice are the results required to meet the rate comparability as noted:

"Based on the survey results, the reasonable comparability benchmark for voice services is \$49.51.3

<sup>3</sup> Id. at 17694, para. 84."

As required Indianhead Tel Co hereby certifies that its current fixed voice services for residential subscribers as defined in the USF/ICC Transformation Order is below \$49.51.

SAC: 330936 State: WI

Indianhead Tel Co

Form 481 Line No. 1030 Descriptive document for Broadband Service Rate Comparability

Line 1030 – Description of Broadband Service Rate Comparability: Provide a detailed description of how your pricing of a Broadband service meeting the Commission's Public Interest Obligations is no more than the applicable benchmark, as published annually by the Wireline Competition Bureau, pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 54.313(a)(12).

On February 14, 2017, the Wireline Competition Bureau announced the results of the Urban Rate Survey for Broadband Service as part of FCC Public Notice DA 17-167. Referenced in this public notice are the results required to meet the rate comparability as noted:

Based on the survey results, the reasonable comparability benchmark calculations for broadband services can be calculated at <a href="http://www.fcc.gov/encyclopedia/urban-rate-survey-data">http://www.fcc.gov/encyclopedia/urban-rate-survey-data</a>.

As required Indianhead Tel Co hereby certifies that it offers a Broadband service to residential subscribers at pricing that is no more than the applicable benchmark rate.

SAC: 330936 State: WI

Indianhead Tel Co

Form 481 Line No.: 1210 Terms and Conditions of Voice Telephony Lifeline

Indianhead Telephone Company offers Lifeline Service credit according to basic service requirements listed in Wisconsin Administrative Code 160.03 and 160.04:

### PSC 160.03 Essential telecommunications services.

- 1) "Essential telecommunications services" means all the following:
- (a) "911" means a service that permits a telecommunications user to use the three-digit code '911,' to access emergency services through a public safety answering point operated by a local government.
- (b) "Directory assistance" means a service that includes making available to customers, upon request, information contained in directory listings, such as customer address and telephone number.
- (c) "Dual tone multi-frequency" means a method of signaling that facilitates the transportation of signaling through the network, shortening call set-up time (a/k/a touch tone).
- (d) "Emergency services" includes services, such as 911 and enhanced 911, provided by local governments or other public safety organizations.
- (e) "Enhanced 911" means 911 service that includes the ability to provide automatic numbering information, which enables the public safety answering point to call back if the call is disconnected, and automatic location information, which permits emergency service providers to identify the geographic location of the calling party.
- (f) "Interexchange service" means the use of the loop, as well as that portion of the switch that is paid for by the end user, or the functional equivalent of these network elements in the case of a wireless provider, necessary to access an interexchange provider's network.
- (g) "Local usage" means an amount of exchange service, pre- scribed by the commission, provided free of charge to end users.
- (h) "Operator services" means any automatic or live assistance to a customer to arrange for billing or completion, or both, of a telephone call.

- (i) "Single-party service" means telecommunications service that permits users to have exclusive use of a landline subscriber loop or access line for each call placed, or, in the case of wireless providers, which use spectrum shared among users to provide service, a dedicated message path for the length of a user's particular transmission.
- (j) "Voice grade access" means functionality that enables a user of telecommunications service transmit voice communications, including signaling the network that the caller wishes to place a call, and to receive voice communications, including receiving a signal indicating there is an incoming call.
- 2) Each eligible telecommunications carrier shall make all essential telecommunications services available to all of its customers.
- 3) "Essential telecommunications services" means the service or functionalities listed in 47 CFE 54.101

### PSC 164.04 Call Limitation

- 1) Call limitations obligations
  - a. Except as provided in pars. b. and c., every local exchange service provider in the state shall offer call limitation capability for each of the following:
    - i. Long distance calls
    - ii. Pay-per-call service
    - iii. Collect toll calls
    - iv. Toll calls charged to a telephone credit card associated with the telephone number for which call limitation has been requested
    - v. Toll calls charged to a third telephone number for which call limitation has been requested.
  - b. Federal-only eligible telecommunications carriers are not required to offer any call limitation capabilities to customers who are not low income and need only offer blocking of outgoing toll calls to customers who are low income.
  - c. A local exchange service provider is not required to offer the blocking under par.(a) 1., 3.,4., or 5., to a customer that has service that does not include a fee for such calls that is in addition to the per month or per billing cycle price of service.

- 2) Charges. A local exchange service provider may not impose a charge for the cost of blocking pay-per-call services the first time a customer requests such blocking.
- 3) Emergency Service. A local exchange service provider may not impose a call limitation that prevents a customer from reaching the emergency service numbers appropriate for the customer's location.
- 4) Public Notification and Education. An eligible telecommunications carrier shall make reasonable efforts to inform its customers of the availability of and, where charge-free, eligibility requirements for, call limitation services. An eligible telecommunications carrier shall also make reasonable efforts to instruct customers requesting the service in the use of the service.
- Indianhead Telephone's Lifeline service offerings are listed in Section 1, sheets 1,
   3.1, and 12-15, of its Local Service Tariff (applicable sheets attached).
- The Local Service tariff is also on file with the Wisconsin Public Service Commission.
- All Lifeline subscribers must meet the terms and condition of Federal Lifeline Eligibility Rules.

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Indianhead Telephone Company adheres to all Federal Lifeline eligibility rules and regulations as well as Wisconsin's Administrative Code, Chapter PSC 160.

### PSC 160.02 Definitions

- 6) "Low-income" means a household that meets one of the following criteria:
  - (a) Receives benefits from one or more of the following pro- grams:
    - 1. Wisconsin works
    - Medical assistance
    - 3. Supplemental security income
    - 4. Food stamps
    - 5. The low income household energy assistance program

- 6. Unless the provider is a federal-only ETC, Wisconsin homestead tax credit
- 7. BadgerCare Plus programs consistent with the income limits in subd. 11.
- 8. SeniorCare 1 and 2a
- 9. The national school lunch program's free lunch program
- 10. Temporary assistance for needy families, other than Wisconsin works
- As approved by the commission, other state or federally administered programs for households with income levels less than or equal to 200% of the poverty line as defined in 42 USC 9902.

## PSC 160.06 Eligibility for low-income programs.

- (1) LOW-INCOME ASSISTANCE ELIGIBILITY.
- (a) All ETCs shall verify an applicant's eligibility for low-income assistance programs by making timely queries of the applicable databases of the Wisconsin department of health services, the Wisconsin department of revenue, or other government agencies designated by the commission. An ETC shall verify an applicant's eligibility by finding the applicant to be any of the following:
  - 1. An active client of at least one of the programs listed in s. PSC 160.02 (21) (a).
  - 2. A member of the active client's household whose low income qualifies the client for benefits under at least one of the programs listed in s. PSC 160.02 (21) (a).
  - 3. At an income level that meets the conditions in s. PSC 160.02 (21) (b).
  - 4. At an income level that meets the conditions of any other federal low-income eligibility criteria.
- (b) Notwithstanding par. (a), an eligible telecommunications carrier shall verify an applicant as eligible for low-income assistance programs if the applicant qualifies for federal universal service fund support for eligible residents of tribal lands under 47 CFR 54.400 *et seq.*
- or (b), in addition to the house- holds considered low-income under the definition in s. PSC 160.02 (21), the ETC shall consider a household that receives benefits from federal public housing assistance (section 8) to be low-income.

- (2) ELIGIBILITY REVERIFICATION. An eligible telecommunications carrier shall re-verify eligibility on at least an annual basis for all customers receiving lifeline assistance. The eligible telecommunications carrier shall first attempt to re-verify eligibility by making timely queries of the applicable databases of the Wisconsin department of health services, the Wisconsin department of revenue, or other government agencies designated by the commission.
- (3) ELIGIBILITY INQUIRY. Eligible telecommunications carriers other than federal-only ETCs shall inquire of each customer regarding eligibility of that customer for low-income programs on each order for initial or moved residential service and, orally or in writing, in the first contact with the customer during a year concerning disconnection or payment arrangements.

### (4) QUERY AUTHORIZATION.

- (a) Customers shall complete and remit any reasonably required query authorization forms or forfeit eligibility.
- (b) Eligible telecommunications carriers shall obtain whatever customer authorization is required by the Wisconsin department of health services, the Wisconsin department of revenue, or other government agencies for the database queries necessary for eligibility verification. The commission may revoke the eligible tele- communications carrier designation and order the forfeiture of reimbursements if it accesses a customer's database information without that customer's authorization. The commission may also refer the eligible telecommunications carrier to the Wisconsin department of justice or other state agency for appropriate action.
- (5) APPLICANT REQUIREMENTS. Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, an applicant is only eligible for low- income assistance programs under this chapter if the applicant provides all of the information required under state and federal law.

## PSC 160.062 Lifeline program.

- (1) DEFINITIONS. (a) For purposes of subs. (2) to (7), "eligible telecommunications carrier" or "ETC" means only full and low-income ETCs, and does not include federal-only ETCs.
- (b) For purposes of this section, "line" means an access line, service to an activated wireless handset, or service to an internet connection used as a substitute for a traditional telecommunications connection.
- (c) For purposes of this section, "lifeline monthly rate" means the lifeline base rate under sub. (2) minus the lifeline adjustment under sub. (2g) or 2r).
- (1g) APPLICABILITY. An eligible telecommunications carrier may apply the lifeline adjustment under sub. (2g) to any residential service that includes voice service, including bundles of voice and data services, and bundles that include optional calling features such as caller identification, call waiting, voice mail and three-way calling.
- (1r) ELIGIBILITY. (a) All eligible telecommunications carriers shall offer to all qualified low-income customers a lifeline adjustment to the customer's rate for either of the following:
  - Essential telecommunications service, whether stand- alone or as part of a service package.
  - 2. Internet access, if the customer demonstrates that, because of his or her disability other than cognitive impairment, certified under s. PSC 160.071 (1), the customer requires internet access that is adequate to support service that is substitutable for and comparable to essential telecommunications service.
  - (b) An ETC taking an application for the lifeline program shall do the following:
    - Unless the ETC uses a state or federal duplication prevention database, ask
      the applicant if he or she is currently receiving a lifeline adjustment on any
      other line.
    - 2. Require the applicant to certify that he or she is not currently receiving a lifeline adjustment on any other line or from any other provider.
    - 3. Only offer and apply the lifeline adjustment on one line.
    - 4. Ensure that any federal requirements about lifeline are met.

- (c) A customer may not request a lifeline adjustment on more than one line. An ETC shall not apply the lifeline adjustment unless the customer has certified under par.(b) that the customer is not receiving a lifeline adjustment on another line or from any other provider.
- (d) If an ETC becomes aware that a customer is receiving a lifeline adjustment on more than one line or from more than one provider, the ETC shall provide notice and take action under sub. to ensure that the customer receives a lifeline adjustment on only one line.
- 2) LIFELINE BASE RATE. The lifeline base rate is one of the following:
  - a. For an eligible telecommunications carrier offering local service on a stand-alone basis, the sum of:
  - 1. The in-state charges and fees for stand-alone single-party residential service with touch-tone, including, as applicable, all of the following:
    - a. Police and fire protection fee.
    - b. State universal service fund assessment.
    - c. Remainder assessment.
    - d. Telecommunications utility trade practices assessment.
    - 2. Any 911 charges billed on the telephone bill.
    - 3. The federal subscriber line charge.
    - 4. The access recovery charge.
    - 5. The charge for 120 local calls, excluding extended community calling calls.
    - 6. Other charges as approved by the commission.
  - b. \$25, if the eligible telecommunications carrier does not offer local service on a stand-alone basis, and only offers it as part of a service package.
  - c. The commission may authorize a different lifeline base rate based on the particular facts and circumstances concerning an eligible telecommunications carrier's local service or internet access charges.
  - (2g) LIFELINE ADJUSTMENT. (a) Except as provided in par. (b) and sub. (2r):
  - 1. If the lifeline base rate is \$25 or less, the lifeline adjustment shall be \$10.
  - 2. If the lifeline base rate is greater than \$25, the lifeline adjustment shall be the lesser of the following:
    - a. The amount necessary to reduce the lifeline monthly rate to \$15.

- b. The maximum reimbursement available under 47 CFR 54.403, plus \$9.25.
- (b) If the ETC offers prepaid wireless service, the lifeline adjustment for that service shall be the greater of the following:
  - 1. The number of minutes that, when calculated using the lowest per minute rate the ETC offers to its prepaid wireless customers, equals or exceeds the value of the adjustment under par. that would otherwise apply.
  - 2. The number of minutes recognized by the federal communications commission as an acceptable compliance plan provision for that provider.
- (c) The adjustment under par. (a) 1. shall be increased automatically if both of the following occur:
  - 1. A federal communications commission order or a change in federal law causes an increase in a customer's lifeline base rate.
  - 2. The state reimbursement amount after the increased lifeline adjustment is not greater than it was before the federal communications commission order or change in federal law.
  - (d) Notwithstanding subs. (2g) and (2r), the lifeline adjustment for partial months of service shall follow the policy set by the federal universal service administration corporation or its successors.
- (2r) ADJUSTMENTS FOR RESIDENTS OF TRIBAL LANDS. (a) When a customer qualifies for federal universal service fund support for eligible residents of tribal lands under 47 CFR 54.400 *et seq.*:
  - 1. If the lifeline base rate under sub. (2) is \$25 or less, the life- line adjustment shall be \$10, plus whatever federal universal service fund support the customer qualifies for as an eligible resident of tribal lands.
  - If the lifeline base rate under sub. (2) is greater than \$25, the lifeline adjustment shall be the amount necessary to reduce the lifeline monthly rate to the level at which the adjustment results in a state reimbursement amount that is equal to what it would be under sub. (2g) (a) 2., plus whatever federal universal service fund support the customer qualifies for as an eligible resident of tribal lands.

- (b) The adjustment under par. (a) 1. shall be increased automatically if both of the following occur:
- 1. A federal communications commission order or a change in federal law causes an increase in a customer's lifeline base rate.
- 2. The state reimbursement amount after the increased adjustment is not greater than it was before the federal communications commission order or change in federal law.
- (3) SHOWING THE ADJUSTMENT. (a) Except as provided in par. (b), the eligible telecommunications carrier shall show the lifeline adjustment either as an adjustment to the full tariffed or standard rate on a customer's bill or as a special rate designation. Whenever possible, the eligible telecommunications carrier shall begin showing the lifeline adjustment or rate on an eligible customer's bill on the next bill date following the date of application for life- line assistance. If the ETC does not apply the lifeline adjustment or rate on the next bill date, when the ETC does apply the credit it shall be applied back to the date of application.
  - (b) If an eligible telecommunications carrier offers prepaid service and does not render a bill for that service, if it maintains a statement of account or account balance for a prepaid service customer the provisions of par. (a) apply to the statement of account or account balance. If the ETC does not maintain a statement of account or account balance, the ETC shall include information about adjustments and applicability dates in its terms of service.
- **PSC 160.063 Outreach for low-income assistance programs.** (1) Funding may be available to fund projects to increase participation of the eligible populations in the universal service fund low-income support programs.
- (2) Funding from the universal service fund for projects under sub. (1) may not exceed \$250,000 in one year. Funding shall be limited to not more than 6 projects with at least one project focused statewide and one project focused on the Milwaukee area, if feasible.
- (3) The commission may periodically review applications and grant funding, when funding is available, based on complete responses to a request for applications. An application may involve disbursement of support during multiple state fiscal years. All applications become public documents upon filing.
  - (3m) An application for funding under sub. (1) shall include all of the following:
  - (a) A description of the proposed project.

- (b) The name and a description of any project partners and the role of each partner.
- (c) A description of the proposed activities and an explanation of how those activities may increase participation of eligible populations in the universal service fund low-income support pro- grams.
- (d) A budget showing a breakdown of costs and how a grant under this section would be used.
  - (e) Any other information that the commission considers necessary.
- (4) The commission may authorize funding to conduct or con- tract for an evaluation of the effectiveness of this program in promoting enrollment in low-income programs and subscribership to telecommunications service. This evaluation shall be completed within 2 years of the date on which the commission grants the project funding. The cost of this evaluation shall not exceed \$25,000. This \$25,000 shall be included as part of the \$250,000 maximum total funding available under this section during the year in which the evaluation occurs.

PSC 160.08 Telecommunications customer assistance program. The commission may authorize individual telecommunications providers to establish telecommunications customer assistance programs that meet authorized goals and objectives for increasing or stabilizing subscription levels for non-optional, essential telecommunications service within its service territory or to address avoidance of disconnection or limitation of service to low-income households with payment problems. The customer assistance programs may allow a provider to not make available certain essential services, as defined in s. PSC 160.03 (2), in order to keep at least minimal telecommunications service to certain low-income households with payment problems. The commission shall determine on a case-by-case basis whether or not a telecommunications customer assistance pro- gram may receive universal service fund monies.

Form 10 Rate

# PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WISCONSIN TELEPHONE RATE FILE

### INDIANHEAD TELEPHONE COMPANY

Name of Utility

Exchange	All
Section No.	1
Sheet No.	1
Amendment No.	612

### **EXCHANGE RATES**

## **Local Rates**

	Authorized <u>Rate</u>	TEACH <u>Assessment</u>	Continuing Credit*
Business/Key Systems Access Line	\$22.50	\$0.65	\$0.00
Residential Access Line	\$22.75 (I)	\$0.65	\$0.00
PBX Trunks	\$24.40	\$0.65	\$0.00

(\*) Credits authorized for USC support

NOTE: Local service rates for all Indianhead exchanges moved to this sheet.

Issued	Applicable to bills rendered on and after	er January 1, 2017
PSCW Authorization by order No		
Letter		

Form 10 Rate					
			MMISSION OF WISCONSI NE RATE FILE	N	
П	NDIANH	EAD TELEPHONE COMPANY Name of Utility		Exchange ALL Section No. 1 Sheet No. 3.1 Amendment No.	-
		EXCHA	NGE RATES		
EXT	ENDED	AREA SERVICE (EAS)			
A.	DESC	CRIPTION			
	1.	Exchange Service, consisting service, is provided within a Service Area for a Network	defined Local Service	e Area. The Local	(T)
	2.	Extended Area Service (EAS) defines the Local Service Area within which Telecommunications Service Customers in two different Exchange Areas may call each other at the charges and/or rates for a local call.			(T)
	3.	The Extended Area Service (EAS) arrangements for the Company's Exchanges are:			(T)
		From	<u>To</u>		
		Exeland	Radison		
		Radison	Exeland/		
Issued		Applicable to bills rendered	on and after 10-	-1-99	
PSCW Authoriza	ation by ord				

Letter \_\_\_\_

Form 10 R	ate	PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF		
		TELEPHONE RATE FILE		
	INDI	ANHEAD TELEPHONE COMPANY  Name of Utility	Exchange Section No Sheet No	ALL 1 12
			Amendment No.	7.4
		LIFELINE SERVICE	3	
A.	Desc	cription		
	1.	Lifeline Service is a residence service offering monthly rate to customers who qualify for lodefined in s. PSC 160.02(8), Wis Adm. Code	w income assistance progr	1
	2.	Lifeline Service provides a monthly discount that have a network access line (including Exservice, 911 Service (billed on the customer' User Common Line Charge (EUCL). If the of 120 local calls are provided. Extended Common tincluded in Lifeline Service.	stended Area Service), tou s telephone bill), and the I customer has measured ser	ch-tone End rvice,
	3.	Lifeline Service monthly rates for residence according to s. PSC 160.062(1), (2) and (3),		
B.	Regi	ulations		
	1.	Lifeline Service is only available for residence network access line.	ce customers with a single	line
	2.	Lifeline Service is not available to customers income tax purposes as defined in 26 USC 1: more than 60 years old.	_	I .
	3.	Lifeline Service customers must complete an authorization forms requested by the Compar Lifeline Service.		y
	4.	Eligibility for Lifeline Service must be verificated the Social Security Number and name of the of the Department of Workforce Development of Revenue.	listed customer in active r	ecords
Issued		Applicable to bills rendered on and after	1-01-98	
PSCW Aut	thorization	by order No.  Letter JAN - 6 1998		
		Low		

Form 10 Rate					- <del> </del>
			PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WISCO TELEPHONE RATE FILE	NSIN	
	INDIA		TELEPHONE COMPANY  ame of Utility	Section No Sheet No Amendment No	ALL 1 13
		-	LIFELINE SERVICE		
В.	Regula	ations (	Cont'd)		
5	5.	Recon	firmation of Eligibility for Lifeline Service		
		a.	Reconfirmation of eligibility for Lifeline Sonce each year.	Service will be done at	least
		b.	If a customer cannot reconfirm eligibility to eligibility will continue until the next bill of meet the eligibility requirements.		to
		c. When the Low Income Household Energy Assistance Program is one of the customer's qualifying low income assistance programs, the eligibility for Lifeline Service shall continue until the bill date in the next December following the close of the heating season. At that time, if eligibility cannot be re-verified by the Company, Lifeline Service will be removed from the customer's bill.			
×		d.	When the Wisconsin Homestead Tax Cred qualifying low income assistance program. Service shall continue until the bill date in end of the tax year. At that time, if eligibit the Company, Lifeline Service will be rembill.	s, the eligibility for Li the next June followi lity cannot be re-verif	ifeline ng the ied by
		e.	Eligibility confirmation through receipt of Tax Credit will not become effective until Commission upon its acknowledgment that query process is be in place.	the date set by the	
Issued		****	Applicable to bills rendered on and after	1-01-98	- 10

Issued	Applicable to bills rendered on and after	1-01-98	
PSCW Authorization by order No.	1000	NEW STATE OF THE S	
Letter	JAN -6 19 <sup>AR</sup>		

Form 10 Rate	
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WISCONSIN TELEPHONE RATE FILE	
INDIANHEAD TELEPHONE COMPANY  Name of Utility  Sheet I	No. 14
LIFELINE SERVICE	
B. Regulations (Cont'd)	
C. Rates  Lifeline Service will appear as a credit or a rate reduction on the customer's	bill.
Issued 12-14-01 Applicable to bills rendered on and after 1-1-02  PSCW Authorization by order No.  Letter JAN - 4 2002	

Form 10 Rate

# PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WISCONSIN TELEPHONE RATE FILE

### INDIANHEAD TELEPHONE COMPANY

Name of Utility

Exchange	ALL
Section No.	1
Sheet No.	15
Amendment No.	612

### **EXCHANGE ACCESS SERVICES**

### LIFELINE SERVICE (Cont'd)

#### C. RATES AND CHARGES

The applicable monthly rate for Lifeline Service is determined by the sum of the rates for the services specified in 1, following and applying a credit based on the sum of the credits as specified in 2, following.

#### 1. Lifeline Service

Residence Network Access Line (including EAS) at the rate specified in this section of the Tariff.

Touch Tone Service at the rate specified in Section 5 of this Tariff.

911 Service (if billed on the Customer's telephone number).

End User Common Line (EUCL) Charge.

#### 2. Lifeline Service Credits

End User Common Line (EUCL) Charge as specified in the NECA Tariff.

Federal Lifeline support credit as specified by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) for Universal Service Support for Low-Income Consumers.

State Lifeline support credit as specified by the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin in Wis. Admin. Code PSC 160.062.

## 3. Lifeline Service Monthly Credit

The Lifeline Service monthly credit is as calculated and applied consistent with Wis. Admin. Code PSC 160.062.

Issued	Applicable to bills rendered on and after	January 1, 2017
PSCW Authorization by order No		
Letter		

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SAC: 330936 State: WI

Indianhead Tel Co

Response to Line 3010 – Milestone Certification (47 CFR §54.313(f)(1)(i))

Indianhead Tel Co hereby certifies that throughout 2016, it took reasonable steps to provide upon reasonable request broadband service at actual speeds of at least 4 Mbps downstream/1 Mbps upstream, and currently, it is taking reasonable steps to provide upon reasonable request actual speeds of at least 10 Mbps downstream/1 Mbps upstream broadband service at with latency suitable for real-time applications, including Voice over Internet Protocol, and usage capacity that is reasonably comparable to comparable offerings in urban areas as determined in an annual survey, and that requests for such service are met within a reasonable amount of time.

SAC: 330936 State: WI

Indianhead Tel Co

Form 481 Line No. 3026 - Rate of Return Financial Data

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